IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended): An image forming device configured to be connected to a plurality of other image forming devices via a network, said image forming device comprising:

a web server;

a management unit configured to manage the plurality of other image forming devices and said image forming device;

a comparing unit configured to compare characteristics ~~central processing unit performance, memory size, or average load~~ for each of the plurality of other image forming devices and said image forming device; ~~and~~

a selection unit, provided in said image forming device, configured to select a managing image forming device to manage the plurality of other image forming devices and said image forming device based on a result of a comparison between the characteristics ~~central processing unit performance, memory size, or average load~~ for each of the plurality of other image forming devices and said image forming device, wherein said characteristics include one or more of central processing unit performance, memory size, or average load,

wherein the managing image forming device is selected by said selection unit out of a group including the plurality of other image forming devices and said image forming device; and

a setting unit configured to set a default URL for said web server to correspond to a web server of the managing image forming device selected by the selection unit, wherein default URLs of web servers in the plurality of other image forming devices are also set to correspond to the web server of the managing image forming device.

2-3. (Canceled).

4. (Previously Presented): The image forming device of claim 3, further comprising:

an enabling unit configured to enable said management unit when the managing

image forming device selected by said selection unit is said image forming device.

5. (Previously Presented): The image forming device of claim 3, further comprising:

a disabling unit configured to disable said management unit when the managing

image forming device selected by said selection unit is not said image forming device.

6. (Previously Presented): The image forming device of claim 3, wherein said

management unit comprises:

a receiving unit configured to receive instructions from a user station connected to

the network;

a requesting unit configured to request and receive information from the plurality of

other image forming devices;

a configuration setting unit configured to set configurations for the plurality of other

image forming devices; and

a transmitting unit configured to transmit information to the user station.

7-8. (Canceled).

9. (Previously Presented): The image forming device of claim 1, further comprising:

a checking unit configured to check if another image forming device is managing the

plurality of other image forming devices and said image forming device.

10. (Currently Amended): The image forming device of claim 9, further comprising:

a disabling unit configured to disable the management unit when the another image forming device is managing the plurality of other image forming devices and said image forming device.[[;]]

~~a web server; and~~

~~a setting unit configured to set a default URL for said web server to correspond to a web server of the another image forming device.~~

11. (Currently Amended): A system comprising:

a plurality of image forming devices connected to a network,

wherein each image forming device of said plurality of image forming devices comprises:

a web server;

a management unit configured to manage said plurality of image forming devices;

a comparing unit configured to compare characteristics ~~central processing unit performance, memory size, or average load~~ for each of the plurality of other image forming devices and said image forming device; ~~and~~

a selection unit, provided in each image forming device, configured to select a managing image forming device to manage said plurality of image forming devices based on a result of a comparison between the characteristics ~~central processing unit performance, memory size, or average load~~ for each of the plurality of other image forming devices, ~~and~~ said image forming device, wherein said characteristics include one or more of central processing unit performance, memory size, or average load,

wherein said managing image forming device is selected by said selection unit

out of a group including said plurality of image forming devices, which includes

image forming devices other than said image forming; and

a setting unit configured a default URL for said web server to correspond to a

web server of the managing image forming device selected by the selection unit,

wherein default URLs of web servers in the plurality of other image forming devices

are also set to correspond to the web server of the managing image forming device.

12-13. (Canceled).

14. (Previously Presented): The system of claim 11, wherein each image forming

device further comprises:

a checking unit configured to check which image forming device is managing said

plurality of image forming devices.

15. (Previously Presented): The system of claim 14, wherein each image forming

device further comprises:

an enabling unit configured to enable said management unit.

16. (Currently Amended): The system of claim 14, wherein each image forming

device further comprises:

a disabling unit configured to disable said management unit.[[;]]

a web server; and

a setting unit configured to set a default URL for said web server to correspond to a

web server of said managing image forming device.

17. (Previously Presented): The system of claim 14, wherein said management unit comprises:

a requesting unit configured to request and receive information from said plurality of image forming devices.

18. (Previously Presented): The system of claim 14, wherein said management unit comprises:

a receiving unit configured to receive instructions from a user station connected to said network;

a requesting unit configured to request and receive information from said plurality of image forming devices;

a configuration setting unit configured to set configurations for said plurality of image forming devices; and

a transmitting unit configured to transmit information to said user station.

19-20. (Canceled).

21. (Currently Amended): A method for managing a plurality of image forming devices connected to a network, comprising the steps of:

comparing, at an image forming device of said plurality of image forming devices, ~~central processing unit performance, memory size, or average load~~ characteristics for each of the plurality of image forming devices and the image forming device;

using the image forming device of said plurality of image forming devices to select a managing image forming device to manage said plurality of image forming devices based on a result of a comparison of the characteristics ~~comparing of the central processing unit~~

~~performance, memory size, or average load~~ for each of the plurality of other image forming

devices and said image forming device, <u>wherein said characteristics include one or more of</u>

<u>central processing unit performance, memory size, or average load</u>;

        managing said plurality of image forming devices from said managing image forming

device; and

        setting default URLs of web servers for said image forming devices to correspond to a

web server for said managing image forming device,

        wherein said managing image forming device is selected out of a group including said

plurality of image forming devices, which includes image forming devices other than said

image forming device used to select said managing image forming device.

        22. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of:

        disabling a management unit of image forming devices other than said managing

image forming device.

        23. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 21, wherein the step of managing

from said managing image forming device comprises the step of:

        receiving instructions from a user station connected to said network.

        24. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 21, wherein the step of managing

from said managing image forming device comprises the step of:

        requesting and receiving information from said plurality of image forming devices.

        25. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 21, wherein the step of managing

from said managing image forming device comprises the steps of:

receiving instructions from a user station connected to said network;

requesting and receiving information from said plurality of image forming devices;

setting configurations for said plurality of image forming devices; and

sending information to said user station.

26. (Original): The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of printing.

27. (Canceled).

28. (Currently Amended): A computer program product, comprising:

a computer storage medium and a computer program code mechanism embedded in

the computer storage medium for causing an image forming device to manage a plurality of

image forming devices connected to a network, the computer program code mechanism

comprising:

a first computer code device configured to manage said plurality of image forming

devices from a managing image forming device;

a second computer code device configured to compare <u>characteristics</u> ~~central~~

~~processing unit performance, memory size, or average load~~ for each of the plurality of other

image forming devices and said image forming device; ~~and~~

a third computer code device configured to select said managing image forming

device to manage said plurality of image forming devices based on a result of the comparing

of the <u>characteristics</u> ~~central processing unit performance, memory size, or average load~~ for

each of the plurality of other image forming devices and said image forming device, <u>wherein</u>

<u>said characteristics include one or more of central processing unit performance, memory size,</u>

<u>or average load; and</u>[[,]]

<u>a fourth computer code device configured set default URLs of web servers for said</u>

<u>image forming devices to correspond to a web server for said managing image forming</u>

<u>device,</u>

wherein said managing image forming device is selected out of a group including said

plurality of image forming devices, which includes image forming devices other than said

image forming device used to select said managing image forming device.

29. (Canceled).

30. (Currently Amended): The computer program product of claim 28, further

comprising:

a ~~fourth~~ fifth computer code device configured to check which image forming device

is managing said plurality of image forming devices.

31. (Currently Amended): The computer program product of claim 30, further

comprising:

a ~~fifth~~ sixth computer code device configured to enable said first computer code

device.

32. (Currently Amended): The computer program product of claim 30, further

comprising:

a ~~fifth~~ sixth computer code device configured to disable said first computer code

device ~~and to set a URL of a web server to correspond to a web server for said managing~~

~~image forming device.~~

33. (Currently Amended): The computer program product of claim 28, wherein said first computer code device comprises:

a ~~fourth~~ fifth computer code device configured to receive instructions from a user station connected to said network.

34. (Currently Amended): The computer program product of claim 28, wherein said first computer code device comprises:

a ~~fourth~~ fifth computer code device configured to request and receive information from said plurality of image forming devices.

35. (Currently Amended): The computer program product of claim 28, wherein said first computer code device comprises:

a ~~fourth~~ fifth computer code device configured to receive instructions from a user station connect to said network;

a ~~fifth~~ sixth computer code device configured to request and receive information from said plurality of image forming devices;

a ~~sixth~~ seventh computer code device configured to set configurations for said plurality of image forming devices; and

~~a seventh~~ an eighth computer code device configured to send information to said user station.

36-40. (Canceled).

41. (Previously Presented): The image forming device of claim 1, wherein said image forming device is a printer, a multi-function peripheral, a digital copier, a fax machine, a copy machine, or a combination thereof.

42. (Canceled).

43. (Previously Presented): The system of claim 11, wherein at least one image forming device of said plurality of image forming devices is a printer, a multi-function peripheral, a digital copier, a fax machine, a copy machine, or a combination thereof.

44. (Canceled).

45. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 21, wherein said one image forming device is a printer, a multi-function peripheral, a digital copier, a fax machine, a copy machine, or a combination thereof.

46. (Canceled).

47. (Previously Presented): The computer program product of claim 28, wherein said one image forming device is a printer, a multi-function peripheral, a digital copier, a fax machine, a copy machine, or a combination thereof.

48. (Canceled).

49 (Previously Presented): The image forming device of claim 1, further comprising:

a network interface configured to communicate with the network, wherein a

communication request to a non-selected image forming device that is not the managing

image forming device is routed by a web server in the non-selected image forming device to

the managing image forming device.